

11. Development of non-wovens suitable for canal lining, agricultural mulch and also for making fabric to control soil erosion.

12. Particle board and pulp and paper from jute sticks.

Price Rise due to Export of Rice

2138. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of rice results price rise in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Export of non-basmati rice of common consumption may lead to rise in the price of rice in the domestic market. A proposal to place non-basmati rice in the restricted list is under the Government's consideration.

Misuse of Central Assistance Meant for Cyclone

2139. SHRI G. A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has misused cyclone funds;

(b) if so, the total amount allocated to the State Government for providing relief to the cyclone victims ;

(c) the amount out of it distributed among the victims and the amount still unspent with the State Government ;

(d) whether the Union Government have obtained the details from the State Government about the use of funds which were provided for cyclone victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No report has been received about misuse of funds released by the Government of India to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for relief measures in the wake of cyclone of October-November, 1996.

(b) to (f) Government of India had released R. 142.00 crores to the Government of Andhra Pradesh from the National Fund for Calamity Relief in the wake of cyclones of October-November, 1996, in addition to Rs. 93.14 crores released as Central share of the State Calamity Relief Fund for 1996-97. According to the reports received from the State Government, the entire funds have been utilised.

Forest Cover

2140. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a recent study, only 8% of the landmass of the capital is green;

(b) if so, the other facts brought out in the study ; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Delhi has 1.7% of the geographical area under forest cover as per State of Forest Report, 1995 published by Forest Survey of India.

(b) and (c) Out of total 26 sq.km area under forest cover, 16 sq.km. is having dense forest and 10 sq.km area comprises of open forest. There has been an increase of 4 sq.km of forest cover between 1993 and 1995 assessments of forest cover. The increase is due to plantations.

[Translation]

Productivity of Farms of Various Institutions under ICAR

2141. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have thousands of acres of farms;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if so, whether the productivity of these farms is satisfactory ;

(d) if so, the area of farms under the agriculture and veterinary institutes and the details of products produced in these farms during the last three years, year-wise; alongwith the amount incurred on these farms annually; and

(e) the manner in which the utilisation of such big farms could be made to mobilise more resources for these institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Sir, the Institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have the land area ranging from 0.27 ha. to 2961 ha.

(b) the names of the Institutes and the area of their research farms are given in the attached Statement.

(c) Productivity of research farms is satisfactory.

(d) Information as desired is being collected.

(e) Revolving Fund Scheme is being given to the Institutes for multiplication of seed/ planting material/prototype for resource generation.